



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,356	02/05/2004	Lcslic P. Weiner	23714-07992	6800
758	7590	04/18/2005	EXAMINER	
FENWICK & WEST LLP SILICON VALLEY CENTER 801 CALIFORNIA STREET MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041			EWOLDT, GERALD R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1644	

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,356

Applicant(s)

WEINER ET AL.

Examiner

G. R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-19 and 21-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-19 and 21-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1644

DETAILED ACTION

1. As set forth in the preliminary amendment of 2/05/04, all pending claims read on a method of mediating an immune response comprising the step of administering attenuated T cells to a human.

2. Claims 8-19 and 21-30 are pending and under examination.

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

A) The methods of Claims 8-19, a method of mediating an immune response comprising the step of administering attenuated T cells to a human, and the limitations of Claims 9-19, have no antecedent basis in the specification. The specification discloses only the use of attenuated T cells for the treatment of autoimmune diseases and specifies only multiple sclerosis (MS).

B) The method of Claims 10, 26, and 28 wherein natural and/or synthetic myelin proteins are employed, have no antecedent basis in the specification.

The specification must be amended to include said limitations.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 21-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: the method of Claim 21 recites no steps. The method of Claim 21 depends from canceled product Claim 1. Thus, the method of the claim, i.e., "the method of Claim 1..." comprises no method steps. While the method of Claim 30 does recite several steps, it depends from Claim 21, thus, all of the steps of the method cannot be known.

Art Unit: 1644

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 8-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the specification provides insufficient evidence that the claimed method could be used for mediating an immune response other than a T cell immune response such as the response in an MS patient.

The specification disclosure is insufficient to enable one skilled in the art to practice the invention as claimed without an undue amount of experimentation. Undue experimentation must be considered in light of factors including: the breadth of the claims, the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the level of one of ordinary skill in the art, the level of predictability of the art, the amount of direction provided by the inventor, the existence of working examples, and the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention, *in re Wands*, 858 F.2d at 737, 8 USPQ2d at 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Regarding novel methods involving biological processes, "The amount of guidance or direction needed to enable the invention is inversely related to the amount of knowledge in the state of the art as well as the predictability in the art." *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166 USPQ 18, 24 (CCPA 1970). The "amount of guidance or direction" refers to that information in the application, as originally filed, that teaches exactly how to make or use the invention. The more that is known in the prior art about the nature of the invention, how to make, and how to use the invention, and the more predictable the art is, the less information needs to be explicitly stated in the specification. In contrast, if little is known in the prior art about the nature of the invention and the art is unpredictable, the specification would need more detail as to how to make and use the

Art Unit: 1644

invention in order to be enabling (MPEP 2164.03)". The MPEP further states that physiological activity can be considered inherently unpredictable. The state of the medical arts are such that relatively little is known regarding the mediating of an immune response comprising the step of administering attenuated T cells to a human.

A review of the specification discloses only the administration of attenuated T cells to MS patients. The method presumably functions by regulating autoreactive T cells in the periphery. Given this mechanism of action, it is unlikely that the method could function in a method of mediating any type of immune response, for example, a B cell response.

A review of the art shows that many autoimmune diseases, and other adverse immune reactions, are B cell-mediated. See for example, Baxter et al. (1991), which teaches a B cell-mediated hemolytic anemia. See also, Paque et al. (1992), which teaches B cell-mediated myocarditis, or Araga et al. (1994), which teaches B cell-mediated myasthenia gravis.

It is the Examiner's position then that the limited disclosure of the instant specification provides insufficient support for the broad methods of the instant claims. Thus, in view of the quantity of experimentation necessary, the lack of working examples, the unpredictability of physiological activity, and the lack of sufficient specific guidance in the specification, it would take undue trials and errors to practice the claimed invention.

8. Claims 24, 25, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as the specification does not contain a written description of the claimed invention, in that the disclosure does not reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. This is a new matter rejection.

The specification and the claims as originally filed do not provide support for the invention as now claimed, specifically, the recitation of:

A) The method of Claim 24 comprising at least two of MBP, MOG, PLP, and MAG.

Art Unit: 1644

B) The method of Claim 25 comprising at least MBP, MOG, PLP, and MAG.

C) The method comprising the specific steps set forth in Claim 30.

Applicant's amendment, filed 2/05/04, asserts that support for the new limitations of the claims can be found throughout the specification. Said support has not been found.

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 8-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Stinissen et al. (1996).

Stinissen et al. teaches a method of mediating an immune response comprising administering irradiation-attenuated T-cells derived from autologous peripheral mononuclear cells cultured in the presence of natural or synthetic myelin proteins (see particularly page 503, T CELL VACCINATION IN MS).

The reference teaching anticipates the claimed invention.

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) each as being unpatentable over Stinissen et al. (1996).

Art Unit: 1644

Stinissen et al has been discussed above. The reference differs from the claimed invention only in that it does not teach the optimization of the claimed method as set forth in dependent Claims 16-19. For example, the choice of dosage (Claim 17), and timing (Claim 16), would have fallen well within the purview of the skilled artisan at the time of the invention. Regarding the increasing of the dosages as set forth in Claims 18 and 19, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been well aware of the concept of increasing dosage if no response is obtained up to the point of efficacy or adverse reaction. These limitations do not render the claimed method patentably distinct.

13. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) each as being unpatentable over Stinissen et al. (1996) in view of Correale et al (1995).

Stinissen et al. has been discussed above. The reference further teaches that MBP is not the only autoantigen candidate in MS. The reference teaches that additional antigens, including PLP, MAG, and MOG might also be the targets of autoreactive T cells (see particularly page 501, column 1, second full paragraph).

The reference differs from the claimed invention only in that it does not teach the use of attenuated T cells that target more than one myelin protein.

Correale et al. extends the teachings of Stinissen et al. regarding additional MS autoantigens. The reference teaches that as MS develops, myelin breakdown exposes additional myelin antigens (besides MBP) to autoreactive T cells, thus, broadening the autoimmune response (see particularly page 1375, last paragraph - page 1376, first paragraph).

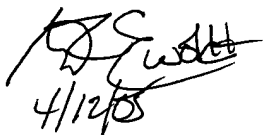
From the teachings of the references it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform the method of administering attenuated T cells, as taught by Stinissen et al., employing attenuated T cells autoreactive to multiple myelin antigens. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to employ attenuated T cells autoreactive to multiple myelin antigens given the teachings of Stinissen

Art Unit: 1644

et al. that MBP is not the only autoantigen candidate in MS and extended by Correale et al. that as MS develops, myelin breakdown exposes additional myelin antigens (besides MBP) to autoreactive T cells, thus broadening the autoimmune response.

14. No claim is allowed.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Gerald Ewoldt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0843. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. **Please Note:** Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



G.R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600